

## Blue Sky Dreaming Process for Benevolent Element Recommendation

The 2021 Capital Campaign includes a 10% Benevolent Element which will be segregated from contributions as funds are received by the church. Our purpose in the Blue-Sky Process is to make recommendations to Session regarding the use of the 10% benevolent element.

The Process shall be coordinated by representatives of the Service and Benevolence Team and supported by members of the Capital Campaign Committee. Following a process used in previous capital campaigns to identify benevolence recipients, our goal is to forward a clear and concise recommendation to Session regarding how we might disburse the benevolence funds as they accumulate. Session will make the final decision regarding projects, funding amount and schedule for payment.

### The Process

- Identify a 10% random sample of the confirmed members of the congregation and invite them to participate either in person at the church or via Zoom on Sunday afternoon, June 6, 2021. Time: 3:30pm-6:30pm. Note: Any member of the congregation is welcome to join in on the process, along with the 10% random sample group. We will cap the total group at 75 persons. To register to participate, please contact Anne Fowler; 803-269-6352, annefowler72@hotmail.com
- Know the intent of the benevolent element. We intend to give 10% of what we collect to provide relief or support of the Causes of Christ in the world outside our walls.... Columbia, SC, USA, or International. Our gift should be considered a one-time financial gift without implying future support.

Step 1: Orientation/Identify Members in each small group.

Step 2: Small Group Brainstorming: Each group will be placed in their own small group room or Zoom Room. You will be called back to the large group after 30 minutes. Each small group will have a convener from S&B or The Capital Campaign Committee. Each group will come up with up to 5 potential Blue Sky Dreams

Step 3: Return to Large Group – Each Small Group Reports. We review of Top 5 Dreams of Each Group

Step 4: Group takes a break while Blue Sky Team Reviews Dreams and Blends those which are similar.

Step 5: Mill Exercise – Each person will vote on their top 3 dreams. All participating members cast their votes.

Step 6: Group Review of Top Five Dreams

The Blue-Sky Team will collect the outcome of the process and share with the congregation on the campaign website. The Capital Campaign will collect all the input and share recommendations with the Session for a final decision on the use of the 10% benevolent funds.

### A Story of Generous People

Over the last 33 years the members of FLPC have demonstrated incredible generosity through Capital Campaign giving.

- 1988 Capital Campaign.....\$800,000.00
- 1999 Capital Campaign.....\$1,204,889.74
- 2002 Capital Campaign.....\$654,172.96
- 2006 Capital Campaign (pledges).....\$903,000.00
- 2006-2018 New Organ and Renovations.....\$857,070.18



Forest Lake  
Presbyterian Church

Head, Heart, and Hands in the Service of Christ



## 2021 Capital Campaign

Dear Friends,

We have lost a lot of friends and family in the last year. When someone we love dies, we begin to pay attention to what they taught us, the values they lived, and the legacy they left us. The death of those near to us helps us to reevaluate (re-value) our lives and our priorities.

Our church family has felt this loss too. And many of those, whose funerals I planned, were those who made it possible for us to meet, worship, and serve using this building as a foundation. They ensured that the roof didn't leak, and the air conditioning worked, and the nursery was welcoming and freshly painted.

Many of us have not been in the church buildings for quite some time now, but even before the pandemic, Session was unanimous in their judgment that the time has come for us to spend some energy and money on our "foundation" to ensure it will be in good repair for the generations that come after us. The needs for the projects that were identified have only sharpened during the last year, and the time has come for us to provide for those who come after us, just as the previous generations did for us. It is time to invest in the buildings and grounds that belong to our faith family and to make some repairs and upgrades to continue to support the mission of our congregation.

Inside you will find an invitation to make a pledge of financial support for our "Making Firm the Foundation" Capital Campaign. There is a list of the projects that were identified by the Session as needing attention. We have appointed a building committee and are ready to go to work, but we cannot do it without your help. The projects addressed by this campaign do not include any new buildings. This is a no-nonsense list of things that need work. There is also a plan to give away 10% of what we collect. If you would like to participate in that process, please read the article on the "Blue Sky Process."

Eric and I have made our pledge of financial support. Your officers and staff have all been asked to pledge support. And as I write this we have already received 78 pledges for a total of \$805,482.00 over a three year period. The goal of our campaign is \$1,001,000.00. We are close, but we cannot do this without your support. Please read through this packet. Prayerfully consider what you are able to give and do so joyfully and generously. We give to the work of the church out of gratitude for what God has done for us. And in this case, we are also grateful for what past generations have done for us. We have a lot for which to be grateful. Please join me in giving, out of gratitude to God and to our church family.

Thank you!  
Ellen

### Capital Campaign Committee

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*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your Faith in His excellent word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

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## 2021 Capital Campaign Q and A

**Q. Has a Capital Campaign already been approved by the Session?**

A. Yes. Though it was delayed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, it has been approved and we are moving ahead.

**Q. What is the estimated amount we hope to raise in the 2021 Capital Campaign?**

A. \$1,001,000 (includes 10% Benevolence Element)

**Q. What is the amount we need to pay off our current debt?**

A. \$0.00. At present Forest Lake Presbyterian Church has completely satisfied all debts related to Building renovation as well as purchase and installation of the new Organ.

**Q. Have FLPC members already begun to make commitments?**

A. Yes, over \$315,000 has already been committed to the church for the Capital Campaign. All members of the Capital Campaign Committee have already made their pledges.

**Q. How many FLPC households have responded as of April 2021?**

A. As of April 16, 2021, seventy-eight (78) FLPC households have given gifts and made pledges for \$805,482.00.

**Q. How many FLPC households are being invited to participate in the Congregation Phase of the Campaign?**

A. 190 FLPC households remain. We hope and pray all these households will consider making a pledge.

**Q. What are the Benevolence Projects and how are they selected?**

A. Please review the Blue-Sky Process on the back page of this document. Session will make the final decision on projects, payment schedule, etc.

**Q. When shall I make my pledge to the Capital Campaign?**

A. If you plan to make a pledge, please consider making it right away. The Capital Campaign hopes to receive all pledges by May 31, 2021. If you wish to make your pledge over the phone, by fax or by email, please reach out to Business Manager, Shannon Fancher. Her contact information is here:  
shannonfancher@flpc.org Phone 803-787-5672 Fax 803-782-8229

**Q. How long will this campaign last? How many months will we make pledge payments?**

A. The campaign pledges will be paid between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2024. This would be a 36-month campaign. As noted above, many households have already made their pledge and begun making payments. You are welcome to make your pledge payments according to the schedule which best fits your situation.

**Q. May I pay all of my pledge on the front end of the campaign?**

A. Absolutely! The schedule on which you pay my pledge is your decision. This can be weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, one lump-sum payment, gifts of stock, gifts-in-kind approved by Session, etc. We simply ask that all pledges be complete by 6/30/24.

### Officers of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Elders			Deacons		
<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Jeff Binnicker	Jessica Agee	Marshall Brown	Sheree Ansley	Christi Cooper	Peggy Ann Burr
Bud Hult	Anne Fowler	Craig Collins	Kathy Hall	Holly Sarratt	Melissa DiSilvestro
Dave Precht	William Hunter	Wayne Harris	Harry Hoppmann	Rebecca Van Wyke	Sissy Ervin
Ward Warren	Drew Radeker	Anita Poole	Kevin Tyer	Brad Woodward	Rebecca Williams-Agee

### Can We Reach Our Goal of \$1,001,000.00?

It is often asked how much can we raise through our Capital Campaign? Experience indicates a congregation can normally raise up to 2.5 times the annual pledge level if new construction is involved. If the campaign focuses on capital improvements, repairs, renovation or debt, the normal amount possible is in the range of 1.5-1.9 times the annual pledge level. (Reeves, M. D. (2002). *Extraordinary Money!: Understanding the Church Capital Campaign*. Upper Room.) Annual Pledges for Fall 2020 Stewardship Campaign: \$721,307 from 226 households.

**The Answer: Yes, We Can Do This!**

### Theology of Giving: Biblical Foundations

Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches in Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as [you] may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. (1 Cor. 16:1-4)

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church is a congregation which invites her members to reflect on the biblical teachings around faith and money. In his text Generous People, Eugene Grimm reminds us that in I Corinthians, the Apostle Paul presents what may be the most succinct theology of Christian giving ever written. He gives us four admonitions:

**Giving is an act of worship:** On the day of worship, Sunday, set aside an offering.

**Give Systematically:** If we give when we worship, we will give regularly.

**Give Proportionately to Income:** We cannot give what we have not received. But we can withhold what we have received. Giving an amount in proportion to what we earn – a percentage of our income-controls that selfish human reflex.

**Plan Your Giving In Advance:** “By the time I arrive,” says Paul, “the offering will be in hand”.

As we work on our current campaign, the Capital Campaign Committee invites each member to reflect on the teachings of scripture and their connection to our own resources. Ask yourself these questions: What is the connection between what God has revealed in Jesus Christ and how I deploy my money and possessions? What is the connection between my money, my possessions and my faith? As a follower of Jesus, what am I called to do with the material possessions with which I have been blessed?

### **FLPC Benevolent Giving in 2020**

**PC(USA)**

- Trinity Presbytery
- Migrant Ministry
- New Church Development
- Missionary Support
  - Frontera de Cristo - Mexico
  - Ministry of Hope - Lesotho
  - Reconcile –Sudan and Uganda
- Synod of South Atlantic
  - Training and Required Constitutional Services
- General Assembly
  - Missionary Support & International Partnerships
  - Church Development & Redevelopment Curriculum
  - Disaster Assistance
  - Conferences and Conference Centers

**Special Offerings:**

- Camp Fellowship
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mothers’ Day Offering
- Migrant Ministry
- Peace Making
- Thornwell Offering
- Christmas Joy

**Beyond Our Walls:**

- Backpack Buddies
- Centennial ARP Church Soup Kitchen
- Children’s Garden
- Cooperative Ministry
- Elf Tree
- Family Promise of the Midlands
- Harvest Hope Food Bank
- Indigent Emergency Aid
- Live Oak Counseling Center
- Medical Benevolence Foundation
- Montreat Conference Center
- MORE Justice
- Oliver Gospel Mission
- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Rehoboth UMC Food Pantry
- Salvation Army Woodyard Fund
- School District Food Drive
- Sistercare
- Thornwell Home for Children
- Washington Street UMC Soup Kitchen
- Women’s Shelter